Government has accordingly requested all the State Governments and Union Territories to take steps to set up at least one Family Court in each District headquarters at the earliest.

(d) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to set up Family Courts in their jurisdiction. The Central Government has, however, provided for assistance to the State Governments by way of meeting half the cost of establishment and running of additional Family Courts which may be set up by the States during the year 2002-2003.

Role of ports in foreign trade

3044. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of country's foreign trade is transshipped at ports outside the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss for Indian economy as a result thereof; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to rectify this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. About two-third of total containers carrying import/export cargo to/from India are transshipped at foreign ports.

(b) The foreign ports at which Indian container are transshipped are located very close to international sea routes and have deep draft thereby bigger vessels frequently call at these ports. The foreign ports also have the advantage of economies of scale, which makes it viable to install modern handling equipment.

(c) On each container transshipped at foreign port, the charges for one operation of loading and unloading are incurred extra in foreign exchange. In addition, because of detour involved in transportation by ship, extra ocean freight is incurred.

(d) Jawaharlal Nehru Port on west coast and Chennai on east coast are being encouraged to emerge as hub ports capable of servicing the mother vessels to facilitate direct sailing from/to India.